

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated August 9, 2004.

Claims 4 and 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as obvious over Nakamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,627,583 in view of Kato, U.S. Patent No. 4,831,444. Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Office Action contends that the applicant's previous arguments have been rendered moot "in view of the new ground(s) of rejection incorporating the previously cited prior art references." Indeed, the applicant carefully reviewed the wording of the previous Office Action dated March 18, 2004 and found that the text of the present rejection follows virtually verbatim the prior rejection, except as concerns the application of the secondary Kato reference in connection with the claim recitation involving "adjusting timing of drive signals of the solid-state image pickup device" which constitutes the last phrase of independent claim 4.

In the present Office Action, rather than relying on element 32 in column 4, lines 44-54 of the Kato reference, the Examiner is citing to Figures 8B and 14A (element 12) of the Kato reference and alleges that Kato discloses "adjusting timings of drive signals (22) of the solid-state image pickup device." (see the underlined text at page 3 of the Office Action).

Respectfully, after carefully reviewing the drawings and the text of Kato, the applicant cannot find in it the necessary support for the Examiner's contention. Certainly, and as can be appreciated from Figure 1 of Kato, the CCD 20 is driven by drive pulses from drive pulse generator 22. The drive pulse generator 22 is driven by the voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) 24, as shown in Figure 1.

Kato appreciates and generally addresses the issue of signal delays which are occasioned by the utilization of the cable 14. However, throughout the numerous embodiments described in this secondary reference, applicant cannot discern a single instance where the pulses emanating from the drive pulse generator 22 for the CCD 20 are adjusted in any manner, let alone for cable delays.

Painstakingly reviewing the entire text of this reference shows that in each instance adjustments are made in the signal processing component for cable delay, not via adjusting the drive pulse generator signals that emanate from the generator 22.

The Examiner mentions Figures 8B and 14A. In Figure 8B, the signal flow path is into the element 12 via the input lines 16 and 17. No signal is supplied to either the drive pulse generator 22 or to the VCO 24 in a manner which would be capable of adjusting drive signals for the CCD 20. Indeed, compare Figure 8B to Figure 7 to confirm the foregoing.

Turning to Figure 14A of Kato, the drive pulse generator 22 outputs its signals 18 to the CCD (not shown). Neither the VCO 24, nor the drive pulse generator 22 receive any control signal which adjusts the drive signals being supplied to the CCD (which constitutes the solid-state image pickup device).

The Examiner's kind attention is further directed to column 4, beginning at line 64, which again does not reveal any hint of placing the delay circuit 36 or any other component in a manner which could affect the drive signals for the CCD. At column 5, beginning at line 64, it is revealed that the first and second embodiments of Kato are constructed such that the delay in the transmission of signal from the camera head to the signal processing circuit is detected by the phase comparator in the signal processing circuit and the timing of the signal processing circuit for processing the output of the solid-state image sensor device is controlled by the output of the phase comparator." In other words, delays are being compensated for at the signal processing stage and not at the drive signals for the CCD.

A similar understanding can be obtained from reviewing the text at column 7, beginning at line 57, with respect to the third and fourth embodiments. Here again, the entire delay compensation scheme is based on compensation for signal delay in the signal processing circuit and not at the image pickup device.

The foregoing is further corroborated by the text at column 10, beginning at line 35, which discusses other embodiments that are described in Kato and which confirm that, as before, the transmission delay of a signal from the camera head to the signal processing circuit is detected: "...and the timing of the signal processor for processing the output of the solid-state image sensor device is controlled by the output of a phase comparator, thus providing a camera video device which has a simple construction of compensating for the delay of signal transmission through the cable between the camera head and signal processing circuit."

Thus, in none of the embodiments of the secondary Kato reference is there found any support for the contention in the Office Action that the secondary reference teaches the limitation of claim 1

which provides for adjusting the timings of drive signals of the solid-state image pickup device, to obtain a solution for cable delay problems in the manner perceived and provided for by the present inventors in the instant claims.

Since the remaining claims 9-12 depend from claim 4 and impose further limitations thereon, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the application merit to be promptly allowed at this time.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 27, 2004

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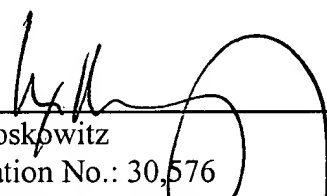
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Signature  
October 27, 2004

Date of Signature

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